

Town's Single Stream Recycling Program Starts

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Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilman Tim Mazzei have announced that the Town's Single Stream Recycling program will start with a special "after the holidays" weekend pick-up on Saturday, January 4. The special pickup became necessary since regular recycling pick-up is on Wednesday and both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on that day this season. Single stream recycling has been implemented in several communities throughout New York State and the country, however, Brookhaven is the first on Long Island.

The new Single Stream Recycling program allows residents to combine their paper and co-mingled items into one container, with no sorting required. In addition to single stream recycling, the Town will expand its program to include plastics #3 to #7. Currently only plastics #1 and #2 are recycled. Presently, the Town's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) separates approximately 15,000 tons of paper, 9,000 tons of co-mingled (bottles, cans and plastics) recyclables from the residential waste stream. Under the current program, residents must place paper and co-mingled recyclables curbside on alternating weeks (Wednesdays).

"I ask that everyone do their part and make recycling their New Year's resolution," said Supervisor Romaine. "Single stream is easier for residents. It will help increase their recycling efforts since they won't have to spend time sorting or need to remember what gets picked up for recycling before they put the container out to the curb. I expect our recycling to increase and that's good for the environment and good for the Town."

Councilman Tim Mazzei, who serves as the Town Board Liaison to the Department of Waste Management said, "The holidays generate a lot of recyclables and I expect that residents will be anxious to have them picked up sooner rather than later. This special weekend pick-up will get people started on the right track and I expect to see our recycling numbers go up as soon as the program starts."

Studies of communities that have converted to Single Stream recycling have shown a 20% to 30% increase in the recycling rate. For every additional ton of material recycled, the Town is expected to save in excess of \$125 through the sale of the material and the avoided disposal cost. The Town also expects to increase revenue by accepting recyclables from other municipalities in the region that are not currently equipped to handle single stream processing.

For more information about recycling in the Town of Brookhaven, go to www.brookhaven.org.

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